

VANDERGRIFF RAILROAD STATION
Pennsylvania Railroad
77 Washington Avenue
Vandergrift
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-250

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

VANDERGRIFF RAILROAD STATION

HAER No. PA-250

Location: 77 Washington Avenue, Vandergrift, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: ca. 1910

Builder: Pennsylvania Railroad

Present Owner: unknown

Present Use: beer distributor (baggage and express buildings)

Significance: One of numerous repair facilities in Westmoreland County operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Passenger station, baggage station and express office are extant.

Project Information: In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Westmoreland County to identify the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

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DESCRIPTION: The Vandergriff Railroad Complex incorporates a passenger station, freight station and express office. Passenger Station: red brick, stretcher bond; one story; measures 84' x 21'; hipped roof of terra cotta with gables; gables have pediments and port hole windows; stone foundation; paneled doors with transoms; one double door on east elevation; six-over-one-light double-hung windows; boxed cornice with decorative, wooden roof supports braced with stone; double brick belt course; original roof with wide overhang on both sides has been replaced. Freight Station: red brick, common bond; two stories; measures 40' x 20'; gable roof of asphalt; coursed rubble stone foundation; five bays; arched windows with triple brick voussoirs now infilled with brick; alterations include the emplacement of a garage door and altered fenestration. Express Office: yellow brick, stretcher bond; one story; measures 40' x 20'; hipped roof of asphalt; boxed-in cornice; one-over-one-light double-hung windows with ashlar lintels and sills.

The freight station and express office have been converted to the Spaniel Beer Distributor while the passenger station, now unoccupied, was recently purchased by a computer company. The original yellow brick and cobblestone streets and entranceway still surround the complex.

HISTORY: The Pennsylvania Railroad operated numerous repair facilities in Westmoreland County, including shops at Derry, Vandergriff, New Kensington, Youngwood and Kiskiminetas Junction. There are extant railroad buildings in all these former railroad facilities except for Derry. The railroad employed 288 workers in 1931, 166 railroad workers in 1941 and 194 workers at these four facilities in 1947. Railroad facilities at Vandergriff were operational ca. 1910, and the passenger station, baggage station and express office here are still extant. The baggage and express buildings are used by a beer distributor while the passenger station is vacant as of November 1988.

Sources:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry. Tenth Industrial Directory of Pennsylvania, 1941. Harrisburg: State Printer, 1941.

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Saylor, Roger B. The Railroads of Pennsylvania. State College: Pennsylvania State University, 1964.